

CUL

The mad-brain'd bridegroom took him such a cuff,
That down fell priest and book, and book and priest. *Shak.*
There was, for a while, no money bid for argument,
Unless the poet and the player went to cuffs in the question.

He gave her a cuff on the ear, and she would prick him
With her knitting needle. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*
Their own sects, which now lie dormant, would be soon
At cuffs again with each other about power and preferment.

2. It is used of birds that fight with their talons.
To CUFF, *v. n.* [from the noun.] To fight; to scuffle.
Clapping farces acted by the court,
While the peers cuff, to make the rabble sport. *Dryd. Juv.*

To CUFF, *v. a.*
1. To strike with the fist.
I'll after him again, and beat him. —
—Do, cuff him soundly; but never draw thy sword. *Shak.*
Well, fir Joseph, at your intreaty; but were not you, my
friend, abused and cuffed, and kicked? *Congreve's Old Batchelor.*

2. To strike with talons.
Those lazy owls, who, perch'd near fortune's top,
Sit only watchful with their heavy wings
To cuff down new-fledg'd virtues, that would rise
To nobler heights, and make the grove harmonious. *Orway.*
The dastard crow, that to the wood made wing,
With her loud kaws her craven kind does bring,
Who, safe in numbers, cuff the noble bird. *Dryden.*
They with their quills did all the hurt they cou'd,
And cuff'd the tender chickens from their food. *Dryden.*

3. To strike with wings. This seems improper.
Howling about the coasts they make their moan,
And cuff the cliffs with pinions not their own. *Dryd. Æn.*
CUFF, *n. f.* [*cuisse*, French.] Part of the sleeve.
He railed at fops; and, instead of the common fashion, he
would visit his mistresses in a morning-gown, band, short cuffs,
and a peaked beard. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*

CUFFINAGE, *n. f.* The making up of twine into such forms, as
it is commonly framed into, for carriage to other places *Cowel.*
CUIRASS, *n. f.* [*cuirasse*, Fr. from *cuir*, leather; *coraccia*, Ital.]
A breastplate.

The lance pursu'd the voice without delay,
And pierc'd his cuirass, with such fury sent,
And sign'd his bosom with a purple dint. *Dryden.*
CUIRASSIER, *n. f.* [from *cuirass*.] A man at arms; a soldier
in armour.

The field all iron, cast a gleaming brown,
Nor wanted clouds of foot, nor on each horn
Cuirassiers, all in steel, for standing fight. *Milt. Parad. Reg.*
The picture of St. George, wherein he is described like a
cuirassier, or horseman completely armed, is rather a symbolical
image than any proper figure. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
CUSH, *n. f.* [*cuisse*, French.] The armour that covers the
thighs.

I saw young Harry, with his beaver on,
His cuishes on his thighs, gallantly arm'd,
Rise from the ground like feather'd Mercury. *Shak. Hen. IV.*
The croslet some, and some the cuishes mould,
With silver plated, and with ductile gold. *Dryden's Æn.*
But what had our author to wound Æneas with at so critical
a time? And how came the cuishes to be worse tempered
than the rest of his armour? *Dryden's Virg. Æn. Dedicat.*

CULDEES, *n. f.* [*colidei*, Latin.] Monks in Scotland.
CULERAGE, *n. f.* The same plant with ARSE-SMART. *Ainsw.*
CULINARY, *adj.* [*culina*, Latin.] Relating to the kitchen;
relating to the art of cookery.

Great weight may condense those vapours and exhalations,
as soon as they shall at any time begin to ascend from the sun,
and make them presently fall back again into him, and by that
action increase his heat; much after the manner that, in our
earth, the air increases the heat of a culinary fire. *Newton.*

To those, who, by reason of their northern exposition, will
be still forced to be at the expence of culinary fires, it will
reduce the price of their manufacture. *Arbutnot.*
To CULL, *v. a.* [*cueillir*, French.] To select from others; to
pick out of many.

The best of every thing they had, being culled out for
themselves, if there were in their flocks any poor diseased
thing not worth the keeping, they thought it good enough for
the altar of God. *Hooker, b. v. sect. 34.*

Our engines shall be bent
Against the brows of this resisting town:
Call for our chiefest men of discipline,
To cull the plots of best advantage. *Shaksp. King John.*

Like the bee, culling from ev'ry flow'r,
Our thighs are packt with wax, our mouths with honey. *Sh.*
In this covert we will make our stand,
Culling the principal of all the deer. *Shaksp. Hen. VI. p. iii.*
I do remember an apothecary
In tatter'd weeds, with overwhelming brows,
Culling of simples. *Shaksp. Romeo and Juliet.*

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Then in a moment fortune shall cull forth,
Out of one side, her happy minion. *Shaksp. King John.*
The choicest of the British, the Roman, Saxon, and Nor-
man laws, being culled, as it were, this grand charter was ex-
tracted. *Howell's Parley of Beasts.*

When false flow'rs of rhetoric thou would'st cull,
Trust nature, do not labour to be dull. *Dryden.*
From his herd he culls,
For slaughter, four the fairest of his bulls. *Dryd. Virg. Geor.*

When the current pieces of the same denomination are of
different weights, then the traders in money cull out the
heavier, and melt them down with profit. *Locke.*
With humble duty and officious haste,
I'll cull the farthest mead for thy repast. *Prior.*

The various off-rings of the world appear:
From each the nicely culls with curious toil,
And decks the goddess with the glittering spoil. *Pope.*
CULLER, *n. f.* [from *cull*.] One who picks or chooses.

CULLION, *n. f.* [*caglione*, a fool, Ital. perhaps from *scullion*.]
It seems to import meanness rather than folly. A scoundrel;
a mean wretch.

Such a one as leaves a gentleman,
And makes a god of such a cullion. *Shak. Tam. of the Shrew.*
Up to the breach, you dogs; avanti, you cullions. *Shaksp.*
CULLIONLY, *adj.* [from *cullion*.] Having the qualities of a
cullion; mean; base.

I'll make a top o' th' moonshine of you: you whorson, cul-
lion's, barber-monger, draw. *Shaksp. King Lear.*
CULLUMINE, *n. f.* [more properly spelt COLUMBINE, which
see.] The flowers of this plant are beautifully variegated
with blue, purple, red, and white. *Mit. l.*

Her goodly bosom, like a strawberry-bed;
Her neck, like to a bunch of cullumbines. *Spenser's Sonnets.*
CULLY, *n. f.* [*caglione*, Ital. a fool.] A man deceived or im-
posed upon; as, by sharpers or a trumpet.

Why should you, whose mother wits
Are furnish'd with all perquisites,
B' allow'd to put all tricks upon
Our cully sex, and we use none? *Hudibras, p. iii.*

Yet the rich cullies may their boasting spare:
They purchase but sophisticated ware. *Dryden.*
He takes it in mighty dudgeon, because I won't let him
make me over by deed as his lawful cully. *Arbutnot.*

To CULLY, *v. a.* [from the noun.] To befool; to cheat; to
trick; to deceive; to impose upon.

CULMIFEROUS, *adj.* [*culmus* and *fero*, Latin.]
Culmiferous plants are such as have a smooth jointed stalk,
and usually hollow; and at each joint the stalk is wrapped
about with single, narrow, long, sharp-pointed leaves, and
their seeds are contained in chaffy husks. *Quincy.*

There are also several sorts of grasses, both of the Cyprus
and culmiferous kinds; some with broader, others with nar-
rower leaves. *Woodward on Fossils.*

The properest food of the vegetable kingdom is taken from
the farinaceous or mealy seeds of some culmiferous plants; as
oats, barley, wheat, rice, rye, maize, panic, millet. *Arbutnot.*
To CULMINATE, *v. n.* [*culmen*, Latin.] To be vertical;
to be in the meridian.

Far and wide his eye commands:
For fight no obstacle found here, or shade,
But all sunshine; as when his beams at noon
Culminate from th' equator. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. iii.*

CULMINATION, *n. f.* [from *culminate*.] The transit of a plan-
et through the meridian.

CULPABILITY, *n. f.* [from *culpable*.] Blameableness.

CULPABLE, *adj.* [*culpabilis*, Latin]

1. Criminal.
Proceed no straiter 'gainst our uncle Glo'ster,
Than from true evidence of good esteem,
He be approv'd in practice culpable. *Shaksp. Henry VI. p. ii.*

2. Guilty.
These being perhaps culpable of this crime, or favourers of
their friends. *Spenser's State of Ireland.*

3. Blameable; blameworthy.
The wisdom of God setteth before us in Scripture so many
admirable patterns of virtue, and no one of them, without
somewhat noted wherein they were culpable, to the end that
to him alone it might always be acknowledged, *Thou only art
holy, Thou only art just.* *Hooker's Preface.*

All such ignorance is voluntary, and therefore culpable; for
as much as it was in every man's power to have prevented
it. *South's Sermons.*

CULPABLENESS, *n. f.* [from *culpable*.] Blame; guilt.

CULPABLY, *adv.* [from *culpable*.] Blameably; criminally.

If we perform this duty pitifully and culpably, it is not to
be expected we should communicate holily. *Taylor.*

CULPRIT, *n. f.* [about this word there is great dispute. It is
used by the judge at criminal trials, who, when the prisoner
declares himself not guilty, and puts himself upon his trial,
answers; *Culprit, God send thee a good advocate.* It is likely
that it is a corruption of *Qu'il paroit, May it so appear,* with

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with of the judge being that the prisoner may be found inno-
cent.] A man arraigned before his judge.

The knight appear'd, and silence they proclaim;
Then first the culprit answer'd to his name;
And, after forms of law, was last requir'd
To name the thing that woman most desir'd. *Dryden.*

An author is in the condition of a culprit; the publick are
his judges: by allowing too much, and condescending too far,
he may injure his own cause; and by pleading and asserting
too boldly, he may displease the court. *Prior's Pref. to Solomon.*

CULTER, *n. f.* [*cultur*, Latin.] The iron of the plow per-
pendicular to the share. It is commonly written *coulter*.

Her fallow leas
The darnel, hemlock, and rank fumitory,
Doth root upon; while that the culter tufts,
That should deracinate such savagery. *Shaksp. Hen. V.*

To CULTIVATE, *v. a.* [*cultiver*, French.]

1. To forward or improve the product of the earth, by manual
industry.
Those excellent seeds implanted in your birth, will, if cul-
tivated, be most flourishing in production; and, as the soil is
good, and no cold nor care wanting to improve it, we must
entertain hopes of the richest harvest. *Fulton on the Claficks.*

2. To improve; to meliorate.

Were we but less indulgent to our faults,
And patience had to cultivate our thoughts,
Our muse would flourish. *Waller.*

To make man mild and sociable to man,
To cultivate the wild licentious arts,
With wisdom, discipline, and liberal arts,
Th' embellishments of life. *Addison's Cato.*

CULTIVATION, *n. f.* [from *cultivate*.]

1. The art or practice of improving soils, and forwarding or
meliorating vegetables.

2. Improvement in general; promotion; melioration.

An innate light discovers the common notions of good and
evil, which, by cultivation and improvement, may be ad-
vanced to higher and brighter discoveries. *South's Sermons.*
A foundation of good sense, and a cultivation of learning,
are required to give a seasoning to retirement, and make us
taste the blessing. *Dryden.*

CULTIVATOR, *n. f.* [from *cultivate*.] One who improves,
promotes, or meliorates; or endeavours to forward any vege-
table product, or any thing else capable of improvement.

It has been lately complained of, by some cultivators of
clover-grass, that from a great quantity of the seed not any
grass springs up. *Boyle's Unjustified Experiments.*

CULTURE, *n. f.* [*cultura*, Latin.]

1. The act of cultivation; the act of tilling the ground;
tillage.

Give us seed unto our heart, and culture to our understand-
ing, that there may come fruit of it. *2 Esd. viii. 6.*

These three last were slower than the ordinary wheat of
itself, and this culture did rather retard than advance. *Bacon.*

The plough was not invented 'till after the deluge; the
earth requiring little or no care or culture, but yielding its in-
crease freely, and without labour and toil. *Woodward.*

Where grows? — Where grows it not? If vain our toil,
We ought to blame the culture, not the soil.

Fix'd to no spot is happiness sincere. *Pope's Essay on Man.*
They rose as vigorous as the sun;

Then to the culture of the willing glebe. *Thomson's Spring.*

2. Art of improvement and melioration.

One might wear any passion out of a family by culture, as
skilful gardeners blot a colour out of a tulip that hurts its
beauty. *Tatler, N° 75.*

To CULTURE, *v. a.* [from the noun.] To cultivate; to ma-
nure; to till. It is used by Thomson, but without authority.

CULVER, *n. f.* [*culpe*, Saxon.] A pigeon. An old word.
Had he so done, he had him snatch'd away,
More light than culver in the falcon's fist. *Fairy Queen.*

Whence, borne on liquid wing,
The found culver shoots. *Thomson's Spring.*

CULVERIN, *n. f.* [*colovarine*, French.] A species of ordnance.

A whole cannon requires, for every charge, forty pounds
of powder, and a bullet of sixty-four pounds; a culverin, six-
teen pounds of powder, and a bullet of nineteen pounds; a
demi-culverin, nine pounds of powder, and a bullet of twelve
pounds. *Wilkins's Math. Magic.*

Here a well polish'd mall gives us the joy
To see our prince his matchless force employ:
No sooner has he touch'd the flying ball,
But 'tis already more than half the mall;

And such a fury from his arm's has got,
As from a smoking culverin twice shot. *Waller.*

CULVERKEY, *n. f.* A species of flower.

Looking down the meadows I could see a girl cropping
culverkeys and cowslips, to make garlands. *Walton's Angler.*

To CUMBER, *v. a.* [*kummen*, *kummen*, to disturb, Dutch.]

1. To embarrass; to entangle; to obstruct.
Why asks he, what avails him not in fight,
And would but cumber, and retard his flight,

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In which his only excellence is plac'd!
You give him death, that intercept his haste. *Dryd. Fables.*

Hardly his head the plunging pilot rears,
Clog'd with his cloaths, and cumber'd with his years. *Dryd.*

The learning and mastery of a tongue, being uneasy and
unpleasant enough in itself, should not be cumbered with any
other difficulties, as is done in this way of proceeding. *Locke.*

2. To crowd or load with something useless.

I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it
down, why cumberest thou the ground? *Lu. xiii. 7.*

Let it not cumber your better remembrance. *Shaksp. Timon.*

The multiplying variety of arguments, especially frivolous
ones, is not only lost labour, but cumpers the memory to no
purpose. *Locke.*

3. To involve in difficulties and dangers; to distress.

Domestick fury, and fierce civil strife,
Shall cumber all the parts of Italy. *Shaksp. Jul. Cesar.*

4. To busy; to distract with multiplicity of cares.

Martha was cumbered about much serving. *Luke, x. 40.*

5. To be troublesome in any place.

Doth the bramble cumber a garden? It makes the better
hedge; where, if it chanceth to prick the owner, it will tear
the thief. *Grew's Cosmol. b. iii. c. 2. sect. 47.*

CUMBER, *n. f.* [*kumber*, Dutch.] Vexation; embarrassment;
obstruction; hindrance; disturbance; distress.

By the occasion thereof I was brought to as great cumber
and danger, as lightly any might escape. *Sidney, b. ii.*

Thus fade thy helps, and thus thy cumpers spring. *Spenser.*

The greatest ships are least serviceable, go very deep in
water, are of marvellous charge and fearful cumber. *Raleigh.*

CUMBERSOME, *adj.* [from *cumber*.]

1. Troublesome; vexatious.

Thinking it too early, as long as they had any day, to
break off to pleasing a company, with going to perform a
cumpersome obedience. *Sidney, b. ii.*

2. Burthenfome; embarrassing.

I was drawn in to write the first part by accident, and to
write the second by some defects in the first: these are the cum-
bersome perquisites of authors. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

3. Unweildy; unmanageable.

Very long tubes are cumpersome, and scarce to be readily
managed. *Newton's Opt.*

CUMBERSOMELY, *adj.* [from *cumpersome*.] In a troublesome
manner; in a manner that produces hindrance and vexation.

CUMBERSOMENESS, *n. f.* [from *cumpersome*.] Encumbrance;
hindrance; obstruction.

CUMBRANCE, *n. f.* [from *cumber*.] Burthen; hindrance; im-
pediment.

Extol not riches then, the toil of fools,
The wife man's cumbrance, if not snare; more apt
To slacken virtue, and abate her edge,
Than prompt her to do aught may merit praise. *Milt. P. L.*

CUMEROUS, *adj.* [from *cumber*.]

1. Troublesome; vexatious; disturbing.

A cloud of cumbrous gnats do him molest;
All striving to infix their feeble stings,
That from their noyance he no where can rest. *Fairy Queen.*

2. Oppressive; burthenfome.

Henceforth I fly not death, nor would prolong
Life much! Bent rather, how I may be quit,
Fairest and easiest, of this cumbrous charge. *Milt. Par. Lost.*

Black was his count'nance in a little space;
For all the blood was gather'd in his face:
Help was at hand; they rear'd him from the ground,
And from his cumbrous arms his limbs unbound;
Then lanc'd a vein. *Dryden.*

Possession's load was grown so great,
He sunk beneath the cumbrous weight. *Swift.*

3. Jumbled; obstructing each other.

Swift to their several quarters hasted then
The cumbrous elements, earth, flood, air, fire. *Milt. P. Lost.*

CUMFREY, *n. f.* A medicinal plant.

CUMIN, *n. f.* [*cuminum*, Latin.] A plant.

The root is annual, the leaves like those of fenel: the seeds
small, long, narrow, and crooked; two of which succeed
each other's flower, as in other umbelliferous plants. The
seeds of this plant are used in medicine, which are brought
from the island of Malta, where it is cultivated; for it is too
tender for our climate. *Miller.*

Rank-smelling rue, and cumin, good for eyes. *Spenser.*

To CUMULATE, *v. a.* [*cumulo*, Latin.] To heap together.

A man that beholds the mighty shoals of shells, bedded and
cumulated heap upon heap, amongst earth, will scarcely con-
ceive which way these could ever live. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

CUMULATION, *n. f.* The act of heaping together. *Dist.*

CUNCTATION, *n. f.* [*cunctatio*, Latin.] Delay; procrastina-
tion; dilatoriness.

It is most certain, that the English made not their best im-
provements of these fortunate events; and that especially by
two miserable errors, cunctation in prosecuting, and haste in
departure. *Hayward.*

The swiftest animal, conjoined with a heavy body, implies
that